

they cooperate and support each other. The forms of industry, the forms of the family, the notions of property, the constructions of rights, and the types of religion show the strain of consistency with each other through the whole history of civilization. The two great cultural divisions of the human race are the oriental and the occidental. Each is consistent throughout; each has its own philosophy and spirit; they are separated from top to bottom by different mores, different standpoints, different ways, and different notions of what societal arrangements are advantageous. In their contrast they keep before our minds the possible range of divergence in the solution of the great problems of human life, and in the views of earthly existence by which life policy may be controlled. If two planets were joined in one, their inhabitants could not differ more widely as to what things are best worth seeking, or what ways are most expedient for well living.

6. The aleatory interest. If we should try to find a specimen society in which expedient ways of satisfying needs and interests were found by trial and failure, and by long selection from experience, as broadly described in sec. I above, it might be impossible to find one. Such a practical and utilitarian mode of procedure, even when mixed with ghost sanction, is rationalistic. It would not be suited to the ways and temper of primitive men. There was an element in the most elementary experience which was irrational and defied all expedient methods. One might use the best known means with the greatest care, yet fail of the result. On the other hand, one might get a great result with no effort at all. One might also incur a calamity without any fault of his own. This was the aleatory element in life, the

element of risk  
and loss, good or bad fortune. This element is  
never absent  
from the affairs of men. It has greatly influenced  
their life  
philosophy and policy. On one side, good luck may  
mean something for nothing, the extreme case of prosperity  
and felicity.  
On the other side, ill luck may mean failure, loss,  
calamity, and  
disappointment, in spite of the most earnest and  
well-planned  
endeavor. The minds of men always dwell more on  
bad luck.  
They accept ordinary prosperity as a matter of  
course, Mis-  
fortunes arrest their attention and remain in  
their memory.